

WORDS WITH TWO DOUBLED LETTERS

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In the February 1973 *Word Ways*, Darryl Francis searched for examples of words having two doubled letters (as abbess and buccaneer). Specifically, he attempted to find examples for all doubled pairs excluding J, Q, V and X -- that is, words containing aa-aa, aa-bb, aa-cc, . . . , yy-zz; zz-zz. Not surprisingly, he was unable to complete the list; in fact, he found only 192 (not counting four defective examples in which the doubled letters were separated by hyphens, or cubbyyew, which was added later).

By using additional sources, I was able to raise the total to 214, or 84.6 per cent of the maximum possible total of 253 (= (22)(23)/2). The 21 additions are given in the list below. OSN refers to the Official Standard Names Gazetteers issued for various countries by the US Board on Geographical Names; NUC refers to the National Union Catalogues of the Library of Congress, particularly the huge 'pre-1956 imprints' compilation begun in 1968 and slated for completion in 1980; OED refers to the Oxford English Dictionary.

- aa-zz Ikhf n'Ou Fezzaa - mountain (OSN Morocco)
- bb-cc Severin Abbattucci - medical writer (NUC)
- bb-hh Abbachhof - farm (OSN West Germany)
- cc-dd Stoccareddo - populated place (OSN Italy)
- cc-ff Giuseppe Uffreducci - medical writer (NUC)
- cc-gg Podere Poggiaccio, Boccheggiano - populated places (OSN Italy)
- dd-hh Chhatādda - populated place (OSN Bangladesh)
- dd-ii Viibustuoddarak - mountain (OSN Finland)
- dd-zz Cassim Izzeddine - medical writer (NUC)
- ee-yy Yyeere - variant of Jõeääre - populated place (OSN USSR)
- ff-mm offscumme - 'offscum' (OED)
- ff-zz Guido Bordoni Uffreduzzi - medical writer (NUC)
- gg-kk Äggojokk - stream (OSN Sweden)
- hh-mm Eichhammer - populated place (OSN East Germany)
- ll-yy Ozero Aryyllakh - lake, Ballastnyy - populated place (OSN USSR)
- mm-zz Izzemmouine (variant of Izermouine) - populated place (OSN Morocco)
- ss-uu Uussaari - populated place (OSN Finland)
- ss-yy Nyyssolä - rural dwelling (OSN Finland)
- tt-uu Ruutti - populated place (OSN Finland)
- yy-yy Yyastyy - populated place, Kyyyy (variant of Kyyy) -

populated place (OSN USSR)

yy-zz Vyvezzhaya - populated place (OSN USSR)

This leaves the following letter pairs untouched: AW BI BM BU BW CH CK CU CW CY DU DW DY EI FH FU FY GH GI GU GW HI HK HP HU HW HY HZ IW IZ KW KZ MW OY PW UW UZ WY WZ. It seems likely that a great deal can yet be done, particularly if a source of double-W words can be found.

Here are four additions to the list of double-double words with one of the rare letters J Q V X:

- jj-tt Ujjvaladatta - Indian commentator (British Museum General Catalogue of Printed Works, London, 1960-65)
- jj-vv Avvakajjaure - lake (OSN Sweden)
- kk-vv Avvakko - populated place (OSN Sweden)
- oo-vv Córdnooaiuve - variant of Tshurnoaivi, a hill (OSN Finland)

TWO CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOKS

The New York Times Guide to Solving Cryptics, Crosswords, Anagrams, by Barry O. Higgs (New York Times/Quadrangle, 1977), for \$4.95 is a large-format, 116-page book with the same aim as Alec Robins's Teach Yourself Crosswords, but written more simply in deference to American innocence. The reader is taken step by step through the various clue types, from the simplest (hidden words and anagrams) to the most devious, with little example crosswords along the way (a total of 38), and hints on the crosswords for those who need them. The auk-Ra-emu crossworder who wants a painless introduction to the joys of cryptics should find this the best introduction around. With the New York Times behind it, perhaps cryptics can gain a secure foothold in the US. Real cryptics, instead of the bastardized puns and anagrams in the New York Times Magazine -- it's a heady thought.

Crossword Puzzles: Their History and Their Cult, by Roger Millington, is now out as a \$1.75 Pocket Books paperback. This historical survey, concentrating on British crosswords, includes a lot of material on the development of cryptic clueing. Fifty-two puzzles are reprinted, including the first crossword ever, the first book crossword, the first British crossword, and a selection of cryptics at varying levels of fiendishness. (PMC)